

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 5-13 as follows:

A fifth aspect of the present invention is to provide an image forming apparatus comprising: the image storing device in accordance with the above-described third aspect; reading means (23) that reads an original document to capture image data corresponding thereto; the image data storing device ~~, as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 10,~~ that compresses, encrypts, and stores the image data captured by the reading means (23); and printing means (24) that forms and outputs an image corresponding to the image data on recording paper.

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, line 11 to page 14,
line 4 as follows:

FIG. 1 shows a principle of the present invention. In the drawing, solid lines with arrows designate a flow of data at the time of compressing and encrypting the data and broken lines with arrows designate the flow of data at the time of encoding decoding and expanding the data. In this invention, an image data 10 is compressed and a portion of compressed data 11 after compression is extracted to make an encryption key data 12. In the example in FIG. 1, a portion 11a in a predetermined range of the beginning portion of the compressed data 11 is extracted as the encryption key data 12. On the other hand, in the compressed data 11, the portion 11a from which the encryption key data 12 is extracted is changed. In this example, the portion 11a is replaced with data different from an original value by clearing it to zero or the like, whereby the compressed data 11 is encrypted and converted to an encrypted data 13. A method of changing the portion 11a can be realized by deleting the portion 11a or by replacing the portion 11a by adding data to the portion 11a in addition to clearing the portion 11a to zero. In this manner, the compressed data 11 is divided into the encryption key data portion 12 and the remaining data portion 13 or (13+11a) to effectively encrypt the image data.

And please amend the paragraph at page 19, line 25 to page 20, line 10 as follows:

A portion of the compressed data 102 is extracted as encryption key data 103 (S2) and data in a portion 104 from which encryption key data is extracted of the compressed data 102 from which the portion of data is extracted is cleared to zero, whereby the compressed data 102 is converted to encrypted data 105 (S3) Then, the encrypted data 105 is stored as a file in the auxiliary storage unit 40 (S4) and the name of file is registered as management information in a management table 106 in association with the encryption key ~~table~~ data 103 (S5). The encryption key data and the storage position of the encrypted data corresponding to the encryption key data are managed and stored in a one-to-one correspondence with each other by the information registered in the management table 106.